

## Medicine in the Public Press

**Besmirching the Memory of the Beloved Pasteur—**The author of a so-called health column in a San Francisco newspaper, in speaking of the illustrious Pasteur, says that he was a "man of shallow, showy parts and superficial acquirements, pre-eminently a self-seeking advertiser and money-changer."

**"Are the Colonel's Lady and—"**"Some time ago," says Warden Johnson of San Quentin Prison, "comparisons were made between mental ratings given to various prisoners by the prison employes and those secured by mental tests. It was found that they were almost identical. Depending on your personal viewpoint, you could say that the psychologists had done very well in this case, or that the prison guards were very efficient."

**When Will California Learn This Lesson?**—Dr. Howe, Director of Medical Inspection of Public Schools in the State Department of Education, New York, insists that it is not the policy of the Department of Education to have medical and preventive work performed in the schools. They strongly oppose it and advise against it. The function of the schools is education in health and health matters, and all vaccinations, immunizations, corrective work, etc., should be done outside the school by the family physician, or at a dispensary.—New York State Journal of Medicine.

**Increased Social and Moral Responsibility Rather Than Technical Skill Needed.**—"The school ideal must be shifted. The school must train not for efficiency alone, but it must be the instrument of liberal culture," believes Edward W. Bok (Scribner's); "the means of awakening and ministering to all the higher instincts; the means of refining the soul and purging it of all that is base and ignoble; the means of stimulating to the higher forms of unselfish social service."

"We shall continue to teach the vocational subjects. We shall still need the technical and trade schools. But the ideal ends to be gained must be changed. The vocational courses should have some time for literature, history, sociology, art, and ethics. The lawyer, doctor, engineer, and tradesman all need these as much as they do the technical branches. The great problems of the world which demand immediate solution, if our civilization is to endure, are not primarily questions demanding technical skill, but are social and moral questions. There is skill enough, scientific knowledge enough, available if there were only courage enough, honesty enough and unselfishness enough in applying the knowledge. No one of them demands any great amount of shrewdness or technical skill. A STRICT APPLICATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WOULD SOLVE ALMOST EVERY REALLY GREAT QUESTION CONFRONTING THE WORLD."

Some newspapers are treating seriously the sayings of another "celebrated psychologist" who claims that:

"There are no mental or moral differences between children at birth."

and that

"Likes and dislikes, courage and timidity, a mild or a violent temper, are all absent from the child nature when it is born."

**Osteopaths Now Recognized by the Industrial Accident Commission.**—Under the terms of a recent ruling by the Industrial Accident Commission of California, osteopaths now have precisely the same rights and privileges as do doctors of medicine.

**William Lyman Phelps Points a Moral.**—The most amusing French comedy now running in Paris is "Knock" (pronounce the initial "K") or, "Le Triomphe de la Médecine," written by Jules Romains. This is a delightful satire on physicians, on patients, and on humanity. Young Doctor Knock is just the opposite of Monsieur Coue.

Coue endeavors to persuade sick people that they are well; Knock persuades well people that they are sick, a much easier task. He enters a village where illness is practically unknown, but he soon has all the inhabitants in a sanatorium, by the simple process of beginning with *free examinations*. He shows his visitor a chart: "This is the way your liver ought to look," whereupon he exhibits another and most horrible chart; "and this is the way your liver really does look." Diagnoses take place on the stage; and the various village types that enter the doctor's office are amazingly well done. Those who come to scoff depart in terror, with a long list of medicines, appointments, and bills in store for them.—Scribner's.

**Doctor! How Could You!**—The patients of "Doctor" — appeared to be getting quite a "kick" out of "sun baths" taken in the nude plus a few shocks of electricity, until Mr. Carter of the Board of Medical Examiners took a "look see" at the SANITARIUM (?).

**The Osteopathic Bloc in Women's Clubs.**—Like all great organizations, women's clubs have to deal with organized groups—blocs—within their own organization. The newly formed Osteopathic Women's Association now beginning to function in California, said to be devised to "promote the welfare of women and children," gives promise of interesting developments.

**Is This the Result of "Health Education"**—People who now use tobacco have been widely, expensively, and intensively "educated" from earliest childhood about the alleged iniquitous influences of tobacco upon health.

Is it in consequence of this "education" or in spite of it that the consumption of tobacco has increased fourfold in the last two decades? We are now consuming, according to official government figures, 63,000,000,000 cigarettes annually, and the consumption is increasing in direct ratio to propaganda for suppression of the "vice" (?).

"Health education is great stuff."

**California Board of Health Endorses Birth Control.**—Doctor Dickie, executive officer of the California Board of Health, is widely quoted in the public press as saying that:

"Fifty per cent of infant deaths may be attributed to congenital debility, malformation, premature birth, injury at birth, and other causes which are the consequence of unfit mating. Until such time as we may be able to control the growth of our population, infants will continue to die from congenital diseases. The health department can do little to reduce these cases. It is a problem in eugenics."

This statement will be discouraging to "prenatal hygienists," Sheppard-Towner "obstetricians," "health centers," "clinics," and other agencies who claim to be making such rapid progress in promoting "positive health."

**A Severe Arraignment.**—American civilization is commonly regarded as essentially materialistic. It is said of us that we have contributed little or nothing to philosophy and to religion. Our symbolic products are Ford cars and standard plumbing fixtures. . . . And yet no people of modern times have struggled so poignantly to find spiritual expression. The evidence to this is ample, but unrecognized. That Americans are churchgoers and, in a large measure, members of the various orthodox Christian churches, everyone knows. But outside the orthodox ranks there are thousands, even millions groping toward God—struggling to relate themselves to the Infinite in some way that is satisfying to them. Out of these struggles have arisen the many new religions of America.—Jules Bois (The Forum).

**Hospital Costs.**—This is the season for the publication of hospital reports for the year 1924. Most good hospitals report that the cost of service was a little higher for 1924 than it was for 1923. California State hospitals claim to be exceptions, and, according to press notices, they have decreased their costs.

There are two methods by which such reports can be made, and neither is anything to be proud of.

**Are Chinese Herbalogists Above the Law?**—Cal-

fornia law provides in effect that no one shall diagnose or treat, or hold himself out to diagnose or treat, infirmities of humankind without license from the appropriate state authorities. Every day, in the newspapers of California, Chinese herbalogists advertise and ask patients to come to them for "scientific diagnosis and for treatment by Chinese herbs, guaranteeing remarkable results, etc." There can be no question of doubt but that these herbalogists are violating state law in the claims they make in the advertisement published in the newspapers. There is no reasonable doubt but that they are also violating the law in practicing what they offer to practice in their advertisements.

We ask again, are they above the law and if so, why?

We are going pretty strong when we allow illegal practitioners of medicine to advertise publicly their illegal wares. We are informed by the Board of Medical Examiners, whose duty it is to prosecute these law violators, that punishments are too hard to secure. The reasons why this is so are whispered around and gossiped about wherever citizens gather. There is nothing mysterious about it, and CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is very much disposed to put the whole truth regarding some of the instances into bold-faced type for the world to read. We hereby cordially invite the Board of Medical Examiners to supply us with the FACTS, and we will publish them regardless of consequences.

**Unfortunate Publicity**—The past few weeks have been merry ones in the exploitation of scientific work and scientific workers in the news columns. We feel sure that Doctor Herbert M. Evans and Doctor Martha R. Jones regret as much as do their friends the news slants given to their serious studies of serious subjects.

#### "He Who Breaks a Beehive Will Lick His Hand"—

George W. Pratt (Survey) uses the statements and conclusions made in that glaringly misleading "Survey" of San Francisco's Health Condition made by Haven Emerson, in an attack upon the physicians and other health-serving people of the city. Pratt reiterates Emerson's untruthful statements that:

"Practically nothing is spent for health education (in San Francisco), hardly anything is done for mental hygiene; there are practically no visiting nurses for the bedside care of the sick. Hospital and dispensary services are reported as fairly adequate in quantity, but are submitted to much criticism as to quality. One wonders whether adequate educational forces exist to develop the higher standards in hospitals and dispensaries, and in social and health services, that are suggested at many points by this survey."

Members of our medical organizations; some of our good hospitals, and many of our physicians who are just as well prepared and just as well known in *scientific circles* as these self-appointed critics resent imputations like the above that are given wide publicity. If the Emersons and Pratts will actually show some peculiarly creditable results in health improvement in *their home towns*, we will be glad to adopt them and equally pleased to credit them with the original discovery. In the meantime, why not omit some of the blah-blah?

**Hospitals Secure Advertising Through Society Columns of Newspapers**—The cheap and unethical custom of certain small town hospitals to secure advertising for themselves and the doctors by featuring their patients and their illnesses in the local newspapers is too reprehensible to discuss in temperate language. Marked copies of newspapers carrying this disgusting form of advertising are numerous in the editor's mail. Some of these papers are accompanied by notes of protest apparently from the patients. There are effective methods of stopping these violations of good taste and ethics, and they ought to be utilized.

The present-day mocking appeal to an infant that he give expression to himself represents the abdication of education. This appeal might just as well be directed to a physical vacuum. To starve youth by depriving it of intellectual and moral nourishment, and to cripple and disable it by depriving it of the discipline of experience,

are among the newest and most popular forms of cruelty that have been devised to make education impossible. The results are apparent on every hand.—Nicholas Murray Butler, President Columbia University.

**Disease Still Increasing**—Some years ago, the American Association for Labor Legislation compiled the following startling estimations based upon the occupied males and females in the United States at that time:

Estimated number of cases of sickness among persons exposed to risks, thirteen and one-half millions.

Estimated social and economic cost of sickness per annum, a billion dollars.

Estimated number of days of sickness per annum, two hundred twenty-five millions.

**"Full Time" School Physicians**—The public school authorities in New York are employing "full time" doctors at \$1000 a year to look after the health of school children. They also have "full time" "nurses, health teachers and other experts," but they pay these more than they do their doctors.

They call attention in print to this "progress" as something to be proud of.

**Physicians Attacked for Not Giving**—A Community Chest speaker at a recent Community Chest luncheon in San Francisco drastically criticized the doctors, among others of the "semi-rich" or "great middle class," for not "coming across" with more money for the "chest." Newspapers quote the speaker as saying:

"It is the big class of professional and semi-rich. It is the lawyers, doctors, dentists and other professional men who send their office assistants out to talk to those who are devoting their time to collect the funds needed to adequately care for San Francisco's needy."

*"We should shame these people into giving. If they knew that a list of those subscribing was to be published, they would feel obligated to come across. I become blind with rage when I know the needless obstacles our workers are meeting."*

The reaction against this tirade was prompt, widely spread, and the end is not yet. As has been repeatedly published, the doctors of San Francisco and elsewhere as well, give to charity in *service*, figured as nominal value, every year more than the entire collections of the Community Chest. Doctors don't want any special commendation for such helpfulness. It is part of every day's work with every one of them; but they do resent deeply and widely ill-advised criticism of the kind mentioned.

One of the most prominent and most beloved physicians in the city informs us that on the very day that doctors were being publicly attacked at this chest luncheon, he saw nine poor patients in his office, and performed major operations upon two persons, none of whom would ever receive a bill for either medical or hospital services. Incidentally, the hospital thus giving its charity is one dismissed by that notorious Haven Emerson "survey" for the Community Chest as "commercial" and, therefore, by implication beyond the pale. According to the statements of certified public accountants, that hospital rendered free service to the poor last year that cost them over \$75,000 to give. Other similar stories of individual and group interests in the welfare of dependent citizens could be told and verified—but what's the use?

The constantly increasing difficulties of raising sufficient funds to carry forward the program of the Community Chest is, of course, apparent to all. The chief reasons ought to be equally apparent to any competent observer. The dangerous tendencies and the reasons therefor should be fairly evaluated, and the policies and methods of the fundamentally fine principle of uniformity in collecting and allocating charitable funds and services be revised accordingly.

**Free Birth Control Health Centers Halted**—Just when the free "clinics" and "health centers" devoted to "birth control" get well started, the courts of Illinois take all the joy out of "careless love" by declaring these "free health centers" as illegal because they are practicing medicine without a license.